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The description of them as given by the late Dr. Browne, of Trinity College, Dublin, is as follows ;

“ The colour of the trumpet is that of brass ; the smell also that of brass ; for they left on the fingers a very disagreeable odour, not easily or quickly removed.

“ Their antiquity appears from the peculiarity of the metallic composition, which is different from any of modern times ; and from the parts being joined entirely by rivets, evidently before the art of soldering was known ; and from the ornaments about the entire, I think it is plain, that they must have appertained to a nation not in a state of barbarism. Not being an antiquarian I do not venture to say more. When I saw them, they were not sufficiently in repair, or tight to produce sound, but one of them had been made by an artist, in the vulgar expression, air-tight, and sounded by a trumpeter belonging to the 23d regiment of Dragoons, and as I was informed, produced a tremendous sound, which could be heard for miles ; by the description I should conceive, resembling the most terrific of all sounds which I have heard, according to my fancy, the Oriental Gong.”

To this account is annexed a draft of the instrument itself, with its proportions marked. Hence it appears to have been six feet long, but to have been bent into a form nearly semicircular, the diameter of which from the mouth-piece to the vent is four feet. The mouth-piece itself is an inch broad, but the bore of the tube appears not to have been half that breadth, widening however gradually to the other end, where its diameter is three inches and three quarters. The vent is ornamented by a circular plate of brass, which from its appearance in the plate I conceive to be either wrought in a kind of chased work or engraved ; no notice is taken of it in the description.

It is said that four of them had been dug up at the same time and nearly in the same place ; and that there is a tradition, that a mighty battle was once fought there, and that some king of Ulster had his palace not far distant ; but when, or be-

tween whom the combat was reported to have been, no information could be collected.

As your Magazine has now such an extensive circulation, and must no doubt be in the hands of many persons residing in the neighbourhood of the place where these relics of antiquity were discovered, I wish to make it the medium of an inquiry, whether there be any more satisfactory traditional account of the circumstances here alluded to ; and also whether these trumpets are still in existence, and where they may be found. I would suggest the propriety of having them lodged in some public Museum, where they may remain as lasting records ; for when in the hands of an individual there is reason to fear that sooner or later they will be neglected, forgotten, and perhaps finally perish.

If any of your Correspondents from that neighbourhood will favour me with the above information they will highly gratify

A CONSTANT READER.

Belfast, Feb. 4, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY OF ARMAGH.

THE Barony of Armagh is justly entitled to pre-eminence in the county, whether it be considered as to the superior quality of its soil, its greater population, or as being the seat of the metropolis of the county.

The soil is lime-stone, and it abounds with numerous quarries of this valuable fossil ; the lands are in good heart, the enclosures in excellent order, and the fields judiciously divided in proportion to the size of the farms ; the hedges are of white-thorn, the country is thickly cropped, and the whole surface displays a close neighbourhood of neat and comfortable cottages.

Approaching the city of Armagh, from the westward, or from the bounds of Monaghan county, the prospect is enriched with a considerable quantity of plantation ; on the frontiers are the improvements of Giaslough demesne, with those of the Earl of Caledon, which extend into this county ; from hence to the vicinity of Killyleagh village, as far as the eye

can reach, the surface is beautifully undulated, and the small conical hills have their summits crowned with clumps of forest trees, and ever-greens; these new improvements are strikingly interesting to the traveller, as he approaches towards the interior, and convey a cheerful happy appearance.

This fine range of country, including the neat demesne of Elm-park, is in the possession of Robert Maxwell, esq. and joins a great extent of lands, the property of the Rev. Henry Maxwell, and John Maxwell, esq. The residence of Elm-park is low, and beautifully surrounded with plantations, which are arranged with very judicious taste.

The village of Killyleagh consists of but one long street, which is very tedious, as it stands on a very steep hill; the houses are well built of lime and stone, with a clean and neat exterior. This village is not remarkable for any trade, but on the last Friday in each month a fair is held, principally attended by dealers in horses.

From hence, as we approach the city of Armagh, the soil, though still limestone, yet changes to a purple hue; from Monaghan bounds to this vicinity it is of a whitish colour, more easily becomes calcined, and is of a much more calcareous quality than the reddish lime-stone.

If its value in this respect is diminished, it is however considerably advanced in another instance, as it now approaches to a species of marble, and, the nearer we approach Armagh, this fossil appears of a more beautiful and excellent quality, and has a greater variety of shade and colour; the prevailing hue is of a reddish brown, and not unlike Egyptian marble in the dispersion of its small blots and patches; the cross lines and dendrites are of a lively shade, and are strongly marked. Another species of marble found here is of a yellow ground, and the dendrites are of a deep red; a third kind is of a dusky brown, but takes the finest polish, and is faintly streaked with white veins, which are generally circular; and a fourth species has a ruddy hue, streaked and spotted with both yellow and white; the several kinds of this fossil, which are

found in this county, are ranked under that description, which mineralogists call plum-pudding marble, from its resemblance to it in its patches. Many of the chimney-pieces in Armagh, and indeed for several miles around, are of its native marble, but few of them display the hand of a masterly artist.

On the Blackwater river, which is the boundary of this county from that of Tyrone, stand two towns, which are both in this barony, viz. Charlemont, and Blackwater-town. They are remarkable as to the pleasantness of their situation, but have no respectable trade. The former town is connected by the bridge with the Moy, which has both a post and fair, but it is situate in the county of Tyrone. Until the act of Union, Charlemont was a borough town, in the patronage of the Earl of Charlemont, and returned two members to parliament; it is governed by a Portrieve, and has also a military governor on the staff, with a barracks for three companies of foot. From this town the family of Caulfield take the title of Earl.

The Blackwater river forms a very beautiful and grand feature along the boundary, flowing between spacious and fertile banks, which are partially covered with plantation. This fine water first comes in view near the town of Caledon, as we approach from Monaghan borders, and from the handsome bridge, which here crosses the river; the prospect is from either side very interesting, whether we look to the highly improved demesne of Lord Caledon, which extends to the bridge, or down the river towards Armagh, where the country is so fertile and ornamented with capital inclosures; the whole line of road from Glaslough to Caledon is very pleasing, comprising the finest views of Glaslough and Caledon demesnes. In this point of view, Caledon-house stands to great advantage, on a very elevated site, and exhibits a model of beautiful and modern architecture.

All this country, which I have described, yields the finest wheat crops.

The only town or village west of Armagh, and at about six miles distance, is Keady, where there is little

else to recommend it, in its present state, than a very good church. Its natural situation is favourable, having a fine stream, the river Callen, intersecting the town. On this water are numerous bleach-greens and mills, from hence to Arinagh; this appearance of wealth and commerce is very engaging, and the busy scenes on these banks are enlivened with many ornamental improvements. The bleach-green of Messrs. Holmes are the most considerable in the district. The river Callen flows between lofty banks, contiguous to the village of Keady, or rather in a deep or narrow glen; in these banks are indications of several minerals, as lead-ore, manganese, and ochres.

The Earl of Farnham is proprietor of the very rich lead mines, which the late Earl worked extensively, near Keady. Samples of this ore are in the Dublin Society's Museum.

The country in this vicinity, towards Monaghan, is wild and rude, but reclaiming fast. Land, within these fifteen years past, has nearly doubled in value, and is now set at the average rate of sixteen shillings per acre, though without limestone; it had been within the memory of the present age, almost all in heath and absolute waste.

The city of Armagh stands on very high ground, in the midst of a finely improved and beautiful country. The river Callen flows at the foot of the hill, just below the town, on its passage to the Blackwater river, into which it is discharged near Charlemont.

The cathedral, which is on the summit of the hill, has a commanding site, and is a conspicuous object at a considerable distance. This edifice commands our attention, whether we consider its antiquity, or its pre-eminence, as being the metropolitan church of Ireland.

The church is said to have been originally built of willows, or wattles, like most of the primitive churches, before the use of stone and mortar building was known; from thence it was named Drumsailech, or, the church built of willows; or Ardsailech, the high place of willows: but Ware says this name refers to the vicinity of

the town, which was crowded with willows growing on the banks of the river Callen.*

Such was the state in which it was, when St. Patrick here fixed his see, Anno 445, and was the first bishop. This hill, or rising ground, being granted to him by Daire, a chief of the adjacent country, he changed the name of the place to Ard-magh, or the high place or plain. St. Patrick† founded the abbey for the regular order of Augustinian canons, Anno 457, which he dedicated to the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, and which, for several centuries, was the most celebrated school for theology in Christendom, and, during the middle ages, was not only much resorted to by the natives, but also by the Anglo Saxons from Britain. There existed another good reason for this place having been chosen by St. Patrick for the founding of his metropolitan see; as a royal residence is recorded to have stood in this neighbourhood, and also a famous city, the capital of Ulster, which was called Eamhaim, or Eamania, derived from *aem-huim-ue*, which signifies, the potent or noble city. It was said to have been founded by a Scotch prince, above two centuries before Christ, and was sacked and burned by Caibre Liffechar, a chief of Connaught, in the fourth century.‡

St. Patrick, after having remained for ten years in the primacy, resigned it to St. Benignus, and lived, in private, to see it descend to three successors, all of whom he nominated. He died

* This part of the river was noted for being the spot where king Nial was drowned, who was succeeded by Malachi the first.

† See Ware's account of the bishops of the see; and see Jocelyn, the Lancashire monk, in his *Life of St. Patrick*, chap. 165. "He placed his archbishop's see in the same city, designing it for the primacy, metropolis, and mistress of all Ireland." And chap. 166; "He built the metropolitan church of Ard-magh for the good of souls, and for the good of that city and the whole kingdom."

‡ Colgan says the ruins of this city were standing in his time; Mr. O'Connor places its building 353 years before Christ.

on the 17th of March, 492, and was buried in the county of Down.

The reader who is curious to trace his successors, the bishops of Armagh, will find them recorded in Ware, with some curious historical annals, down to 1678, when Michael Boyle was in that year translated to Armagh; and another list of the archbishops of this see will be found in Bateson's Political Index, to the enthronement of Doctor Richard Robinson, in 1765, who was afterwards Lord Rokeby, and whose munificence to the see and town of Armagh will record his memory to the latest posterity. His Lordship's successor was Doctor William Newcome, who was succeeded by his Grace the present Primate, the Honourable and Reverend Doctor William Steuart, who numbereth the hundred and fifth bishop of Armagh.

A monastery was built here by St. Columba, Anno 610, which, with the town, was nearly consumed by fire, in the years 670 and 687, and was frequently plundered by the Danes, the inhabitants massacred, and the books, records, and treasures carried off by those free-booters, which has been an irreparable loss to the civil and ecclesiastical history and antiquities of Ireland.

In the year 1013, the bodies of King Brian Boromh, and his son Murchaid, with the heads of his nephew Conaing, and of Prince Mothlan his ally, who were slain at the battle of Clontarf, near Dublin, were removed to the cathedral of Armagh from the monastery of Swords, where they had been buried for five years. As this monarch and his family had been liberal benefactors to this see, they were interred with great pomp. The king himself was buried in a stone coffin on the north side of the church; and Murchaid, and the heads of Conaing, and Prince Mothlan on the south side.

The archbishoprick of Armagh was not constituted till the year 1142, when at the same time were the others of Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam, by Cardinal Papirio, who was sent to Ireland by Pope Eugenius, with the consent of the king, dukes, bishops, abbots, and states of the kingdom, to reform the abuses, which had crept into the church discipline.

This cathedral was often burned from intestine commotions, and, on being rebuilt, was always enlarged, particularly by Patrick Scanlan, Anno 1262, who was then bishop. His successor, Nicholas Molessa, added several valuable gifts, bestowed his manor of Dromiskin to the see, and charged his manor Tlomonfeckin with twenty marks annually towards the enlargement of the edifice.

The see of Armagh was valued in the king's books, in an extent taken in the 30th of Henry VIII. at 183*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.* Irish money; but, by an extent returned in the 15th of James I. it is valued at 400*l.* per annum, and pays so much first fruits. It is rated to be at present worth 8000*l.* per annum.

The dignitaries are the Dean, Chantier, Chancellor, Treasurer and Archdeacon. Of the vicars choral are two priests, one of whom was added by Primate Marsh, Anno 1702. In 1720, Primate Lindsay procured a charter to encrease the vicars choral to eight, and expended 4000*l.* in the purchase of property to encrease the estate of the choir. There is also an organist attending on the cathedral service. The choir is reputed to be superior to any in Ireland, and its discipline is most particularly attended to.

The cathedral, in its present shape, represents the figure of a cross; from the point of intersection a square tower is raised, from which branch off, at right angles, the four compartments of the cathedral. The elevation of the tower is well proportioned to the height of the roof,* and would be complete if a steeple was raised on it, which was intended, when the general repair was given to the cathedral by Primate Robinson; but, by the obstinacy of the architect, in opposition to the opinion of Lord Rokeby, the walls of the old tower were built on, which were afterwards found not equal to the support of a steeple,

* This remark may appear erroneous, if this edifice is only viewed from the market-place *en passant*, as it stands on a very abrupt and bold hill, and, consequently, but a small part comes in view from the street, at its base, but from without the town it is seen to great advantage.

having failed in several places, which occasioned the finishing of the tower in its present form.

Within the aisles of the cathedral are some monuments; amongst the best executed is that of Doctor Drelinicourt, who was dean of this see. An extensive burial ground surrounds the cathedral, which is enclosed with a very strong, though not a lofty wall; and through it is made a very neat gravel walk, approaching the cathedral from the several entrances.

The city of Armagh is indebted to the spirited and munificent liberality of Primate Robinson, who was the founder, or rather the donor of all the elegant public buildings which it is so justly celebrated for, and of the rebuilding and planning the very capital streets, which adorn it, and make it very superior to all the inland towns in Ireland; and, by the care of Lord Rokeby, the permanency of his endowments was secured by several acts of Parliament obtained for that purpose. From his Grace's example, encouragement, and assistance, and very much indeed at his private expence, this most ancient city has been renovated into its present style of modern beauty, and its police is managed by wise and strict regulations.

After having given a general repair, with some additions of ornament, to the cathedral, Lord Rokeby's love of literature was displayed in founding a library, which is a very handsome public building, and well designed for the purpose, which he filled with the most scarce and valuable store of books, of ancient and modern literature; having bestowed on it a property, as a perpetual fund, for the encrease of the books, the repairs of the house, and the salary of a librarian, for whom are assigned a suit of very elegant apartments within the building. The revenue for this establishment is now a perpetuity, and yields 300*l.* per annum.

The observatory, which stands just without the town, is another edifice, of very elegant appearance, which owes its existence to his Grace's munificence. This he also endowed with a perpetual fund, which, with the lands annexed to it, is worth 400*l.* per annum to

the resident astronomer, who has fine apartments, and a very elegant demesne. The observatory stands on an elevated site, and is well furnished with the most valuable and costly instruments, which this noble patron of the sciences furnished at no less expence than 3000*l.*

Immediately opposite this beautiful building, and at the base of a hill, on which it stands, his Grace erected a spacious and regular edifice for the endowed school of Armagh, which was laid down on so large a scale, as to acquire the distinguishing appellation of the College of Armagh, which it has since retained. It may be proper to remark in this place, that even these extensive concerns were, only a small part of what his Lordship intended them to be; his great design was to erect a university in this city, which should have been on the most extensive scale; and all his improvements and plans were intended as tributary to this grand scheme. It was a favourite object with this good primate, to encourage literature and the sciences, which this vast project would so amply provide for; but it was necessary to have the assistance of government in this respect, though he intended, had they seconded his laudable views, to have dedicated his own ample fortune towards its success. Whatever were the objections of government to this great national benefit, they did not immediately unite with Lord Rokeby, although they gave reason to expect, that the time was not remote when they might support it. After a long interval, Lord Rokeby despaired at last of being able to see his favourite object accomplished; but, in order towards setting it afloat, he bequeathed by his will 5000*l.* for that purpose, provided the plan was adopted, and the first stone laid within five years after his decease. He conceived that, as he left the matter to be adopted by the wisdom of the legislature, which he could not have the direction of when in their hands, it would be a national concern, and would require but small individual aid, which occasioned his limiting his bequest to 5000*l.* Had his project been adopted

when he first proposed it to government, he would doubtless have bestowed on it the principal part of his fortune, as he was often heard to declare. The benefit of this valuable legacy has not been embraced, and the limited time has elapsed, without any step having been taken; of course it has reverted to the conditions of the will; nor is there any probability that his Lordship's views, for the founding of this seminary, will ever be adopted. The money he expended on the College of Armagh amounted to full 4000*l.* with which sum, and the funds for that establishment, the present elegant building was raised; and the late Rev. Doctor Grueber, who had long ably discharged the duties of principal, at this time, at an advanced age, resigned on a liberal compensation; and, by the desire of Lord Rokeby, the Rev. Doctor Carpendale, who had with great credit presided at the endowed school of Carrickmacross, was removed to this professorship, nor could his Grace have made choice of a master more eminently qualified for the discharge of this important trust, as the unanimous testimony of the gentlemen fully evince, who have been so fortunate as to receive their education under his careful superintendence.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MODE OF CURING BUTTER.

BUTTER is a substance so well known in this country, that it is needless for us here to give a description of it. It is one of the three component parts of milk, the other two being whey and cheese: it is naturally distributed through all the other substances of the milk in very small particles, which are interspersed betwixt the *caseous* and *serous* parts, amongst which it is suspended by a slight adhesion, but without being dissolved; it is in the same state in which oil is in an emulsion, hence the same whiteness of milk and emulsions, and hence by rest, the oily parts separate from both these liquors to the surface and form a cream; milk may therefore very properly be called an animal emulsion; butter

composes its oily part, which by the interposition of its particles gives an opaque white colour, the cheese serves as a mucilage to keep the oily parts suspended, and lastly, whey, which is naturally transparent, is the aqueous substance which is a vehicle for the other two. Butter, though used at present as an article of food in most countries of Europe, was scarcely known to the ancients. This is completely proved by Professor Beckmann in the 2nd. volume of his "History of Inventions."

In our translation of the Bible, there is indeed, frequent mention made of butter at very early periods; but as the Professor well observes, the greatest masters of biblical criticism, unanimously agree that the word so translated, signifies milk or cream, or sour thick milk; and cannot possibly mean what we call *butter*. The oldest mention of butter, the Professor thinks, is in the account of the Scythians given by Herodotus (lib. IV. 2) who says, that "these people pour the milk of their mares into wooden vessels, cause it to be violently stirred or shaken by their blind slaves, and separate the part which arises to the surface, as they consider it more valuable and delicious than what is collected below it." That this substance must have been a soft kind of butter is well known, and Hippocrates gives a similar account of Scythian butter, and calls it *πιτερίον*, which Galen translates by the word *βούτυρον*.

The poet Anaxandrides, who lived soon after Hippocrates, describing the marriage feast of Iphicrates, who married the daughter of Cotys, king of Thrace, says that the Thracians ate butter, which the Greeks at that time considered as a wonderful kind of food. Dioscorides says, that good butter was prepared from the fat of milk, such as that of sheep, or goats, by shaking it in a vessel till the fat was separated. To this butter he ascribes the same effects, when used externally, as those produced by our butter at present. He adds also, and he is the first writer who makes the observation, that fresh butter might be melted and poured over pulse and vegetables instead of oil, and that it might be employed